

**Perth Amboy Board of Education
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

January 11, 2023 – 5:30 p.m.

**Perth Amboy High School
300 Eagle Avenue**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order – Michael LoBrace, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary 5:45pm

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Notice of Meeting

“The New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law was enacted to ensure the right of the public to have advance notice of and to attend the meetings of public bodies at which any business affecting their interests is discussed or acted upon. In accordance with the provisions of the Act, the Perth Amboy Board of Education has caused notice of this meeting to be published by having the date, time and place thereof posted at the bulletin board in the Administrative Headquarters Building, mailing notices to The Home News Tribune, The Amboy Guardian, El Diario/La Prensa, City Clerk Kupsch, as well as all other persons requiring notification pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Law.”

4. Oath of Office – Administration of Oath of Office to newly elected members

Oath of Office conducted by Michael LoBrace for Luis Marte and Joas Quiles. Both newly elected Board Members delivered brief comments thanked all in attendance and their eagerness to serve the community.

5. Roll Call – Michael LoBrace, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary

Mr. Anderson	<u>P</u>	Mr. George (remote)	<u>P</u>
Ms. Gonzalez	<u>P</u>	Mr. Marte	<u>P</u>
Ms. Peralta	<u>P</u>	Ms. Marquez-Villafane	<u>P</u>
Mr. Quiles	<u>P</u>		

Administration:

Dr. Roman	<u>P</u>
Dr. Medina	<u>P</u>
Mr. LoBrace	<u>P</u>
Mr. Rodriguez	<u>P</u>
Mrs. Machado	<u>P</u>

Additions/Revisions to the agenda were announced. They are Item number 13, the Board President’s Report and Item Number 14, the Superintendent’s Report.

6. Correspondence

The Board Secretary announced the resignation of former Board President, Kenneth Puccio and informed the public applications will be accepted to fill the vacant position.

7. Report on Election – Michael LoBrace, School Business Administrator/Board Secretary called the three winning candidates names and vote totals.

Candidate	Vote Totals
Richard Zaleski	2,236
Marilyn Grullon	2,104
Manuel Fernandez	2,003
Sharon D. Hubberman	1,330
Danny Gonzalez	1,401
Stephen W. Konopka	1,229
Luis Marte	2,660
Jasmin Melendez	2,684
Joas Quiles	2,460
<u>Write-In Totals</u>	<u>41</u>
Total Votes Cast	18,148

8. Election of Board President:

A. Nominations

Stacey Peralta	<u>Gonzalez</u> Moved	<u>George</u> Seconded
Luis Marte	Anderson Moved	

B. Motion to Close Nominations

<u>Anderson</u> Moved	<u>George</u> Seconded	All in favor.
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C. Roll Call –

Ms. Peralta Nomination

Anderson	<u>N</u>	George	<u>Y</u>
Gonzalez	<u>Y</u>	Marte	<u>Y</u>
Peralta	<u>Y</u>	Marquez-Villafane	<u>Y</u>
Quiles	<u> </u>		

9. Election of Board Vice President:

A. Nominations

Marisol Gonzalez	<u>Peralta</u> Moved	<u>George</u> Seconded
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B. Motion to Close Nominations

<u>Anderson</u> Moved	<u>George</u> Seconded	All in favor.
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C. Roll Call

Anderson	<u>Y</u>	George	<u>Y</u>
Gonzalez	<u>Y</u>	Marte	<u>Y</u>
Peralta	<u>Y</u>	Marquez-Villafane	<u>Y</u>
Quiles	<u> </u>		

10. Board Member Code of Ethics

WHEREAS, the following Code of Ethics (Bylaws Nos. 9270 and 9271) for Board Members is set forth as a guide to conflict-of-interest situations and unethical activity for Board Members:

1. I will uphold and enforce all laws, State Board Rules and Regulations, and court orders pertaining to schools. Desired changes should be brought about only through legal and ethical procedures.
2. I will make decisions in terms of the educational welfare of children and will seek to develop and maintain public schools which meet the individual needs of all children regardless of their ability, race, creed, sex, or social standing.
3. I will confine my Board action to policymaking, planning and appraisal, and I will help to frame policies and plans only after the Board has consulted those who will be affected by them.
4. I will carry out my responsibility, not to administer the schools, but, together with my fellow Board Members, to see that they are well run.
5. I will recognize that authority rests with the Board of Education and will make no personal promises nor take any private action which may compromise the Board.

6. I will refuse to surrender my independent judgment to special interest or partisan political groups or to use the schools for personal gain or the gain of friends.
7. I will hold confidential all matters pertaining to the schools which, if disclosed, would needlessly injure individuals or the schools. But in all other matters, I will provide accurate information and, in concert with my fellow Board Members, interpret to the staff the aspirations of the community for its schools.
8. I will vote to appoint the best qualified personnel available after consideration of the recommendation of the Chief Administrative Officer.
9. I will support and protect school personnel in the proper performance of their duties.
10. I will refer all complaints to the Chief Administrative Officer and will act on such complaints at public meetings only after failure of an administrative solution (Authority: BD2/71, DA 5/75-CR Ethics, BD 6/85, DA 5/97-7, 11/98-SR);

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that each Board Member shall abide by the Code of Ethics and has signed an Acknowledgment of Receipt to confirm that they have received a copy of the Code of Ethics for School Board Members contained within the School Ethics Act, C.178, P.L. 2001. Failure to sign this Acknowledgment does not relieve a Board Member of the responsibility to understand and adhere to the Code of Ethics.

11. Motion

Adoption of regular meeting schedule of the Board.

Thursday, February 9, 2023	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 300 Eagle Ave
Thursday, March 9, 2023	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 300 Eagle Ave
Wednesday, April 5, 2023	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 300 Eagle Ave
Thursday, May 4, 2023	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 300 Eagle Ave
Thursday, June 15, 2023	5:30 pm	PAHS Auditorium 300 Eagle Ave

Ms. Gonzalez Ms. Marquez-Villafane
 Moved Seconded

Mr. Anderson made a motion to amend Item 11 to state the dates for July through December be advertised immediately after the June 15th meeting. There being no second, a roll call vote ensued on the original motion.

Mr. Anderson	<u> Y </u>	Mr. George	<u> </u>
Ms. Gonzalez	<u> Y </u>	Mr. Marte	<u> Y </u>
Mrs. Peralta	<u> Y </u>	Ms. Marquez-Villafane	<u> Y </u>
Mr. Quiles	<u> Y </u>		

12. Meeting open to the public for discussion of agenda items and non-agenda items. There will be only one public participation session at this meeting.

At this time, comments are invited on any matter. Public participation shall be governed by Policy No. 0167. Anyone wishing to address the Board, please state your name, municipality of residence and group affiliation. Each statement made by a participant shall be limited to three minutes. No participant may speak more than once on the same topic until all others who wish to speak on that topic have been heard. All statements shall be directed to the presiding officer. No member of the public may address or question board members individually. Although the Board encourages public participation, it reserves the right, through its presiding officer, to terminate remarks to and/or by any individual not keeping with the conduct of a proper and efficient meeting. The Board discourages the public from speaking negatively about any employee, administrator, or student. Individuals can be held personally liable for defamatory or libelous statements made at public meetings. The Board bears no responsibility for comments made by members of the public. Comments regarding employees, administrators or students cannot be legally responded to by any member of the Board or administration.

There was no one present who wished to make public comments either in person or remotely.

Anderson Marquez-Villafane
 Motion Seconded (To close following discussion) All in favor.

13. President's Report

The President thanked the Board for their contributions and the hard work they put forth and acknowledged all the Board members who left the Board. Vice President Gonzalez thanked everyone for their support.

14. Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent thanked all in attendance as well as Mr. Puccio, who is moving on. He thanked him for the enormous contributions to the District during his tenure as President. He noted his eagerness to work collaboratively with the new Board President and Vice President. The Superintendent commented on the importance that everything we do, matters.

The Superintendent continued by discussing the progress of the construction new High School and the fact after all the discussions, it is coming to fruition. He welcomed the new Board members and stated his excitement on this next phase and encouraged all the community to be a part of the conversation. The District and community should be prepared to inspire the souls and the hearts of children and be prepared to contribute.

Old Business

<u>Anderson</u>	<u>Gonzalez</u>	(To close Old Business)
Motion	Seconded	

All in favor

New Business

<u>Anderson</u>	<u>Gonzalez</u>	(To close New Business)
Motion	Seconded	

All in favor, Anderson abstained.

Motion to Adjourn

<u>Peralta</u>	<u>Gonzalez</u>
Motion	Seconded

6:30pm

Respectfully submitted,



Michael LoBrace
School Business Administrator/
Board Secretary